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SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, I'm going to rise in support of this amendment. Senator Chambers has labored I think and caused an agreement that I can support. This is getting to be a familiar issue to the Legislature, at least I hope it is a familiar issue. We have, even after this amendment is adopted, problems with the way we allocate dollars for the needs-based scholarship programs. We have had several bills in Education. We've not reported any of those out yet. Some of them, at least one of the proposals, would go a long way to resolving the difficulties that we have in needs-based scholarship. The problem with needs-based scholarship, to respond a little bit I think to what Senator Schrock had to say, is not necessarily that we offer support to students in private institutions. That was a decision that we made explicitly to do in 1992 and years before that as we broadened the other two categories of programs. The problem is that what we do in needs-based aid is severely unbalanced in terms of its benefit to students. Most of it goes to the private schools. The percentage is overwhelming in that regard. And it is not, in my estimation, the most effective use of our dollars because we do not allocate, for example, needs-based aid to the least expensive schools. We literally allocate it to the most expensive, just the opposite of what you would normally expect us to do. Expect us to allocate it to the least expensive schools so we would get the most students in the door and, instead, we allocate it predominantly to the most expensive schools so we get the least students. That's the real problem. Senator Chambers' amendment works some improvement in that imbalance. It is not complete. And if you think that by allocating monies away from "PEAPA", the program that is exclusively for the privates, that we're taking all that money away from the private schools, that is not the case. They do and will participate in the shifted dollars. My understanding is they will participate in about 25 percent of those shifted dollars so it will move just very slightly the imbalance that we currently have in the way that we use public dollars. Instead of using them to support needs-based students at public schools, we're using them predominantly to support students at private schools. I think that is a serious issue for the Legislature. This is a small step toward remedying an imbalance and I'm happy to support it.